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REVIEW

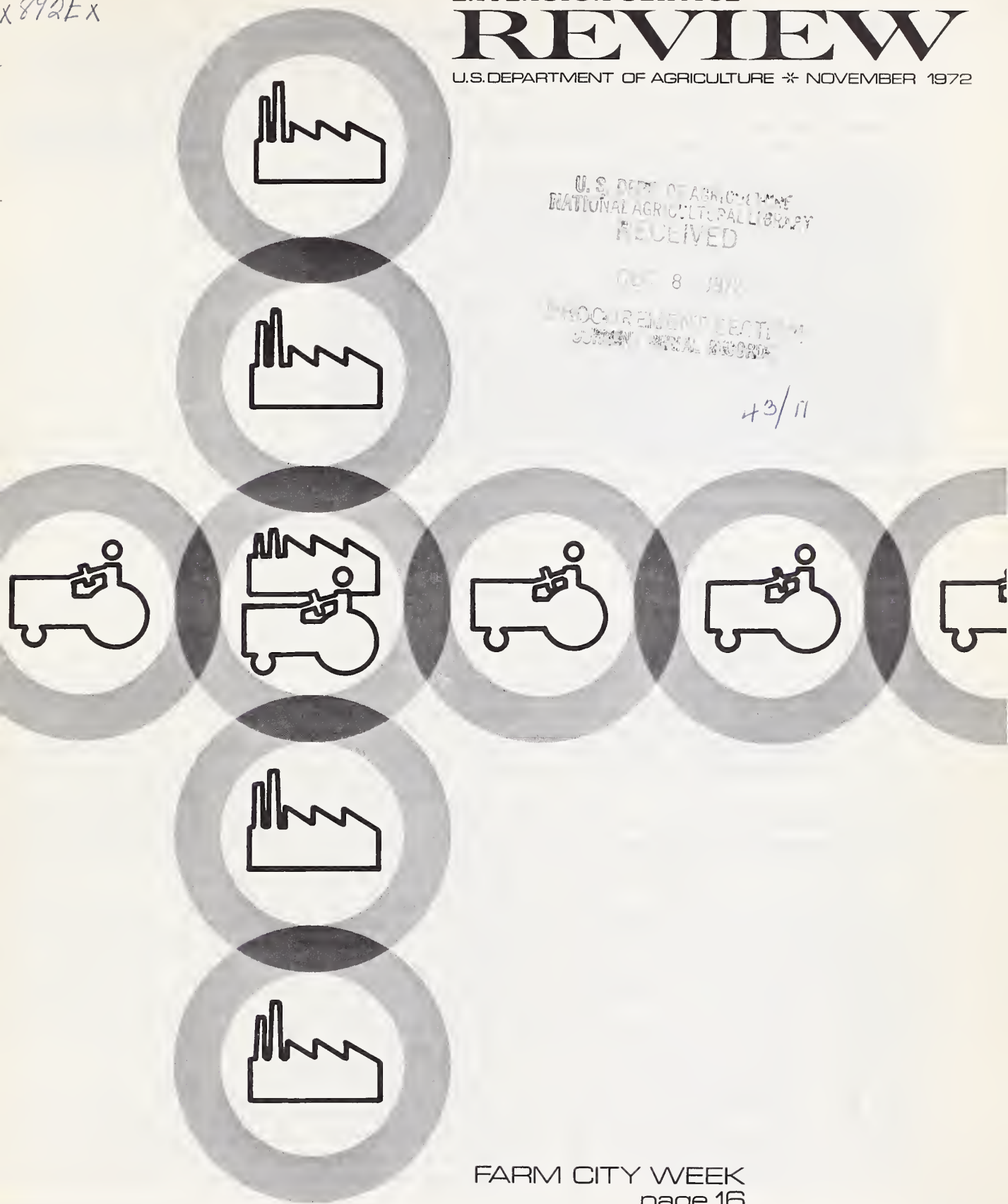
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The Extension Service Review is for Extension educators—in County, State, and Federal Extension agencies—who work directly or indirectly to help people learn how to use the newest findings in agriculture and home economics research to bring about a more abundant life for themselves and their communities.

The Review offers the Extension worker, in his role of educational leader, professional guideposts, new routes and tools for speedier, more successful endeavor. Through this exchange of methods tried and found successful by Extension agents, the Review serves as a source of ideas and useful information on how to reach people and thus help them utilize more fully their own resources, to farm more efficiently, and to make the home and community a better place to live.

EARL L. BUTZ
Secretary of Agriculture

EDWIN L. KIRBY, *Administrator*
Extension Service

Prepared in
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EXTENSION SERVICE

REVIEW

Official monthly publication of Cooperative Extension Service; U. S. Department of Agriculture and State Land-Grant Colleges and Universities cooperating.

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Whorton joins ARS staff

The WJW you have been seeing at the end of back-page articles will be missing from future issues of Extension Service Review.

Those initials belong to W. J. "Jim" Whorton, former editor of the Review and more recently assistant director of Extension's Information Services Staff. He has accepted the position as Western Regional Information Officer for the Agricultural Research Service, with headquarters in Berkeley, California.

After 6 years on the Nevada Extension Information Staff and earlier commercial experience, Jim Whorton was appointed editor of the Review on February 1, 1966. He developed it into a more useful vehicle of ideas and Extension techniques. About 3 years ago his duties were expanded to include being assistant director of the Information Services Staff. A year ago, Mary Ann Wamsley, whom he had trained as assistant editor, was named editor of the magazine, but Jim continued to guide its policies and to write most of the back-page articles.

I deeply regret losing Jim Whorton from our staff, but wish him the best of success in his new challenge. He has done an outstanding service for Extension by helping to adapt information support to the needs of administrators, program specialists, and agents. His messages in the Review will be difficult to match.—Walter John

Research plots involve community

[Extension work]

by
J. J. Feight
Agricultural Editor
North Dakota State University

It was no accident when more than 200 people showed up for a twilight tour of the off-station experimental plots in Grand Forks County, North Dakota.

Off-station experimental plots are used to supplement experimental work done on branch stations. They add the variable of soil and location and provide local people with a chance to see research without having to drive to the nearest research station, which in this case is at Fargo.

The executive committee of the Grand Forks County Agricultural Improvement Association (CAIA) started the ball rolling to establish the plots. But as County Extension Agent R. W. Amstrup and Associate Agent Robert Rose put it, "We needed co-operation from many others to make it a reality."

The reality began to take form when the association's executive committee met late in 1971 to plan the next year's activities. They appointed a committee of four to explore the possibilities of setting up some off-station plots for small grains and sunflowers.

Willard Pederson, president of the CAIA; Marvin Klevberg, president of the National Sunflower Growers Association and director of the CAIA; and the two county agents made up the committee.

The committee decided to devote 18 acres to the combination of small grains and sunflowers. The CAIA rented land from farmer O. K. Loyland, who also tilled the field.

The 24 small grain varieties were replicated four times. Each plot consisted of $\frac{1}{8}$ of an acre. A local oil



Associate Agent Robert Rose (left) and County Extension Agent R. W. Amstrup pause in front of the off-station sunflower plots.

company sprayed the small grains for broadleaved weeds. The agents planted the small grains with a 16-foot grain drill borrowed from a local equipment company and a tractor loaned by a tractor dealer.

Gary Fick, sunflower breeder at North Dakota State University, planted the eight sunflower varieties, which were replicated three times. Willard Bergsrud, a farmer near Emerado, furnished a cultivator and tractor for working the sunflowers.

A chemical company not only furnished the sprayer but also sprayed the herbicide on the field where the sunflowers were to be planted. Chemicals used were furnished by an agricultural supply company. Loyland incorporated the chemical into the soil. A truck furnished by a steel company was used to haul the equipment to and from the plots.

Seed was either given or bought at a reduced price from several sources, including the NDSU Experiment Station at Langdon and Fargo, seed companies, elevator companies, and an agricultural supply company.

Once the plots were established, the committee began concentrating on getting people out to see them. Evening tours had worked well in Grand Forks County for several years, so they decided to try that method again.

Promotion of the event enlisted more cooperative efforts. In addition to a newsletter from the agents to the members of the CAIA, the agricultural committee of the local chamber of commerce became active promoters of the event.

A local television station interviewed the county agent at the site. The program appeared on the 6 and 10 p.m. news 2 days before the event.

The county agent appeared on a half-hour prime-time talk show at the local radio station a day before the event. The local daily newspaper used a picture and cutline in the Sunday issue preceding the tour and another during the week before the event.

So the big turnout on the night of the twilight tour didn't "just happen"—Extension program successes in Grand Forks County are spelled i-n-v-o-l-v-e-m-e-n-t. □

Bulls battle one-crop agriculture

More than 300 years ago, British trading ships sailed into the mouth of the Potomac River to Leonardtown and Port Tobacco, in southern Maryland, and took aboard great hogsheads of the aromatic weed for the pipes of Europe.

The tobacco sailed out and the money rolled in, and flourishing towns grew up all around Saint Mary's County. The entire economy was based on the production of tobacco, and southern Maryland developed a one-crop agriculture. European gentry burned up the tobacco and the tobacco burned up the soil of southern Maryland.

During the next 300 years, agriculture changed very little. Of course, when the Civil War freed the slaves, many of the larger plantations were broken up into smaller holdings, but tobacco was still king.

After World War II when labor became scarce and expensive, many people started to look around for alternate farm enterprises, but traditions die hard. Most of the farmers still relied on tobacco as the only source of farm income.

The best land went into tobacco and when it was not planted to tobacco, it simply "rested" until the next tobacco crop.

Livestock farming was virtually un-

known, and the few dairy farms that supplied milk for the Washington, D.C., market dried up with the decreasing labor supply. The area became a deficit zone for both milk and meat. The few beef cow herds were mostly low grade animals with quite a bit of dairy breeding.

Then about 2 years ago an Extension agent, a vocational agriculture teacher, and a banker put their heads together and came up with a plan to bring Saint Mary's beef cattle enterprises into the 1970's.

Edward L. Swecker, now an Extension agricultural agent but then a vocational agriculture teacher, was one of the prime movers of the project. He enlisted the help of his friend, Joe Trumbauer, the Extension agent.

They adapted an idea that had originated with two First National banks—one in Georgia and one in Tennessee—so their first stop was at the office of Joseph Gough, president of the First National Bank of Saint Mary's.

The banker, being agriculturally oriented and looking for a way to encourage more farmers to use the bank, bought the idea and threw his full support behind the project.

On March 6, 1971, the bank purchased seven bulls at the revived annual Maryland Performance Tested Bull Sale and made them available to cattlemen on a lease arrangement.

Under this agreement, the farmer with a small grade herd has the use of a bull he might not otherwise be able to afford. The bank has an investment that builds goodwill and, eventually, builds business by improving the county's economy.

Although the leases are written for a 1-year period, the farmer may choose to renew the lease for a second year or until his first heifer crop is old enough to breed. Then he can arrange to lease one of the other bulls in the program and continue upgrading his herd. Three more bulls have been added, and the farmers are raving about the first calf crop.

But the program did not start off flying. It crawled for quite a while. As Ed Swecker tells it, "Most of the farmers wanted to know, 'What is the catch?' They just couldn't believe that the bank was going to give anything away."

Joe Trumbauer sent out sample leases to cattlemen he knew might be interested, and set up a meeting. Banker Gough explained the program to the cattlemen, and Bill Curry, Extension livestock specialist at the University of Maryland, talked about the feasibility of such a program.

Two more meetings with bank officials resulted in formation of a committee to draft a lease and select bulls. The committee elected Trumbauer secretary and met several times, with Swecker also giving the group guidance.

The bank officials were convinced that the bulls should be of high quality so that the breeding program would improve the cattle herds, but they were not necessarily looking for high-priced "show" cattle.

The committee set a maximum of \$1,000 per head and decided to bid on animals in the Maryland Beef Cattle Improvement Association's first sale of tested bulls in 6 years.

by
Jack Owen
Associate Agricultural Editor
University of Maryland

On the day of the sale, committee members, Saint Mary's County farmers, bank officials, Trumbauer, and Swecker were in the stands. W. L. (Tom) Clark was designated to do the bidding.

After he had bid in three of four bulls, some of the other bidders seemed to give up hope. When the one Simmental bull came on the block, Clark felt justified in going slightly over the limit and gave \$1,075 for the 13-month-old calf with the highest rate of gain of any bull in the test.

Seven bulls—two Angus, three Hereford, one Charolais, and the Simmental—went to Saint Mary's for just \$5,100.

In March 1972, the bank purchased another Charolais and two Angus bulls at the second annual sale for a total of \$3,150. All the bulls (except one that died of pneumonia last winter) are at work improving the cattle herds of southern Maryland.

"My calf crop is definitely bigger and more uniform this year than it has ever been," says Bert Cryer of Floods Creek Farm near Leonardtown. He is using one of the original Herefords on his herd of 16 highbred grade Hereford cows.

He says these 15 calves are the best he has had since he started the herd in 1944, and he is so pleased that he plans to sell all the heifers so that he can use the same bull for more years.

Tom Clark at Glen Mary Farm used the Simmental and one of the Angus in his herd of 153 crossbred cows. He said his calves are normally ready for the feedlot by March or April, but he believes most of them will be ready to go by November or December this year.

Some of the calves at 4 or 5 months are nearly as tall as their dams and carry the heavy muscling of their sires. He plans to keep many of the better heifers and cull his cow herd heavily.

Most of his herd has been bred back to either the Simmental or to a Charolais which Tom got in an agreement with another farmer that wanted the Angus.

Reports from the other farmers show just about the same keen interest and enthusiasm for the program.

The bank officials do not look on the project as a money-making scheme. They do expect that the lease arrangement (the purchase price plus insurance and transportation, minus salvage value, divided by 6 years) will repay the original cost, and the capital investment can perpetuate the program.

Prospects for perpetuation look good. One of the Angus bulls went to the Future Farmers of America Chapter at Chopticon High School where Ed Swecker was teaching. When Joe Trumbauer moved to another Maryland county, Swecker took his place in the Extension Service, but he reports that the young Future Farmers are interested in the program and some are using the bull to improve their own embryonic herds.

"If we can just get Saint Mary's County farmers to produce enough beef for their own families and use some of that "resting" land to produce grain and hay, maybe the years of tobacco, tobacco, tobacco will be a thing of the past," Swecker says.

If the first year's calf crop is any indication, both beef numbers and quality can be expected to show marked increases in the next 5 to 10 years. "That's what the program is all about," Swecker adds. □



This Simmental bull, leased from a local bank, is being used to upgrade the beef cattle herd on the farm of W. L. (Tom) Clark. As a result, the calf in foreground shows improvement over the dam, left.

Extension aids Texas' probate process



County judges and clerks from across Texas have shared in a rare educational experience to help them become better public servants.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service, through its County Officials Program, has sponsored six regional probate conferences in its program of adult education for elected officeholders.

The County Officials Program is staffed by two full-time specialists. In addition to conducting programs that focus on aspects of county government, they maintain a close liaison with various groups of county officials, assisting and encouraging their efforts in self-improvement.

Special funding for this program comes from the State and under Title I of the Higher Education Act.

by
Eugene M. McElyea
*County Officials Program Specialist
Texas Agricultural Extension Service*

The involvement of Extension in a program of this nature developed from the recognition that Texas county judges need not be licensed lawyers.

While the county judge serves as the chief administrative officer of county government, he also possesses certain judicial duties including the probate of wills, handling the estates of persons dying without wills, and administering the estates of incompetents and minors.

These non-lawyer county judges serve about 190 of Texas' 254 counties. The continuing legal education programs of the bar association do not reach these men and women who guide the probate business of many county citizens. Functioning in this technical and complex area of the law often has proven to be a substantial problem to many lay judges.

These programs have been of equal interest to the county clerks. Their duties in probate consist of maintaining the appropriate files, meeting certain timetables in remitting information for State inheritance tax collection purposes, and assisting in the orderly flow of business on the court's docket.

Probate matters frequently pose complexities for the clerk, as well as for the judges, lawyers, and other citizens involved in the process.

With the assistance of Judge K. Pat Gregory of Houston, a program format was devised which has been presented in six different areas of the

State. Each area program has relied heavily on the assistance of local attorneys who donated their time without charge in the interest of bettering the quality of justice in their area.

Items discussed include "Wills—Drafting and Validity," "Probate Procedures," "Accounting—Annual and Final," and "Motions, Applications, and Miscellaneous Matters."

Judge Gregory has appeared on three programs. Dallas County Probate Judge Oswin Chrisman also has been a program participant in two area conferences. These members of the legal profession have a keen interest in seeking to upgrade the performance of their nonlawyer colleagues.

Program participants learned that in the courts in the larger cities the probate clerk's office often supplies forms for use by the general public in processing some of the routine requirements of the law.

These forms can greatly enhance the clerk's ability to expedite a pending file. All conference participants were given a complimentary supply of forms.

The crucial need for proper planning of an individual's personal estate is demonstrated often in probate court proceedings. Extension publications on steps to better personal and financial planning are among the many made available in this educational program.

Judges and court attaches are generally aware of the pain which the probate process can cause for those who fail to make adequate plans, but



Above, Harris County Probate Judge Pat Gregory, left, discusses a point of law with conference speakers William E. Remy and Arthur Bayern, San Antonio lawyers. At left, Bayern addresses a regional probate conference for judges and clerks in San Antonio.

these programs have helped them know what legal action to suggest when these problems arise.

Texas is one of the four States which permit the appointment of an independent executor in a will and allow that person to handle a decedent's affairs without court supervision or administration, as though the decedent himself were living and acting.

There is no mandatory requirement to tender Texas wills into probate court.

The conferences also focused on what could be done to elicit more cooperation between the bench and bar, and the statutory delays which are inherent in probate proceedings.

Extension professionals have detected an enthusiastic response after the concluding panel discussion at each session. The real impact of these conferences, though, has manifested itself in the improved practices which are occurring in probate proceedings throughout Texas.

The fact that Texas county judges do not enjoy judicial immunity and

may be personally liable for their negligence in handling the affairs of decedents, minors, and other incompetents pending in their courts has caused a wholesale re-examination of old probate files in many counties. This potential liability has been particularly emphasized at each area session.

The new awareness imparted in these sessions has caused many judges and clerks to become less tolerant of sloppy practices on the part of those who deal in probate matters. The statutory duty to make an annual inquiry into each pending file has taken on new meaning for many of them.

Many county officials have commented on the effectiveness of these programs in improving probate administration practices on the part of judges and clerks.

One district judge said he had observed an almost complete change in the probate methods used by the county judge in his county after he participated in an area probate conference.

A deputy county clerk explained that printed copies of the conference proceedings provided to each participant were used daily for personal reference in handling probate filing and docketing chores.

The clerk found the section on miscellaneous items to be helpful in performing his duties under the mental health code regarding the estates of mentally ill persons.

One county judge in north Texas said that since the conference he had started requiring the posting of corporate surety bonds instead of personal bonds. The personal bond may not

afford the real protection a judge might need in the event of malfeasance on the part of a guardian or administrator. As a result, he saved one minor's estate more than \$6,000.

The conferences for probate judges and clerks have had a telling effect in improving the practices in Texas' probate courts. The programs have responded to expressed needs and have provided practical and useful tools which were badly needed to help judges and clerks fulfill their statutory obligations.

While probate is one area in which a need has become evident, the whole task of providing assistance to all elected county officials, who have a great variety of educational needs, is still a major challenge for the County Officials Program.

The continuing turnover in elected county governmental personnel and the increasing complexity of administering local government, together with an unusual cooperation on the part of elected county officials, make Extension efforts in this area worthwhile indeed. □

'Rec Lab' focuses on leadership skills

by
Norman O. Everson
Assistant State 4-H Leader
University of Wisconsin

Its official name is Wisconsin Recreation Leaders Laboratory—but its friends call it "Rec Lab."

The week-long 1972 Rec Lab attracted more than 100 people ages 17 and over who wanted to gain new ideas and skills in areas of recreation and to develop leadership techniques for using recreation with individuals and groups.

The theme for the week was "Expanding Horizons Through Leisure Activities." Participants included both volunteer leaders and professionals who came from a wide variety of backgrounds with different recreational skills, hobby interests, and leadership responsibilities.

There were 4-H junior and adult leaders, school teachers, Extension agents, college students, clergy, city recreation directors, and Scout leaders. They represented many organizations and institutions, including nursing homes, children's homes, hospitals, cooperatives, social services, and special education for handicapped persons.

The curriculum offerings were varied and allowed participants to choose the activities that interested them most. Subjects were social recreation, camp craft, music, drama, crafts, natural environment, and recreation for the handicapped.

Each participant selected two or three areas in which he particularly wanted to develop recreation and leadership skills. Daily major interest periods provided special helps and leadership practice in those areas.

Everyone participated in general



sessions devoted to broadening understandings of recreation and its part in the development of the individual. Participants were involved in various exercises to assist them in leadership roles with groups.

They had a chance to practice leadership skills. Some led songs at fireside or a prayer before eating. Others performed leadership roles in their primary interest group, such as calling a square dance, directing a role-playing situation, or leading a game. Participants gained not only specific recreation skills, but also "people" skills.

The 1972 Rec Lab staff included a minister; two public school teachers; an art therapist; a city recreation director; two county 4-H agents; and Extension specialists in music, drama, wildlife ecology, forestry, and youth development.

The first statewide Recreation Laboratory was in 1938. It continued for several years under the leadership of an informal committee.

Above, several participants in a drama workshop watch as three others role-play a parent-daughter discussion.

The laboratory was organized as a nonprofit legal organization with constitution, bylaws, and board of directors in 1945. It was named the Wisconsin Recreation Leaders Laboratory Association.

From that small group of people who wanted to include recreation as a part of rural youth programs, Rec Lab developed into an organization that has provided learning opportunities for thousands of youth and adults, both rural and urban.

In addition to the direct benefit of recreational leadership training, the Rec Labs have served to promote one-



An engrossed group watches while Robert Swan, above (center), Extension music specialist, gives a demonstration. At left, Jack Heller, youth development specialist, supervises as two participants in the camp craft section practice their skill in log sawing.



day or weekend county Rec Labs, have been a source of recreational literature and materials, and have maintained a list of available resource people in recreation.

Since its beginning, activities of Rec Lab have been conducted in close cooperation with University Extension. Extension provides a headquarters for operation each year, and the services of an executive secretary plus other secretarial help.

This relationship is mutually beneficial, since training is provided to

both volunteers and professionals who provide recreational leadership in county Extension programs. One strength of the Rec Lab is the interaction which takes place between individuals and groups having a common interest.

The benefits to Extension are multiple. The majority of participants at leadership workshops are 4-H junior and adult leaders. Many soon become involved in organizing recreation workshops and groups in their clubs and communities.

Several Wisconsin Extension agents attend the spring workshop as a part of their inservice education. The experience helps them implement leader-development programs and organize recreational learning experiences.

Rec Lab activities reach clientele who are not usually reached through Extension programs. A University of Wisconsin student indicated that the Rec Lab experience helped him decide that he wanted to work in physical recreation.

Another student majoring in wildlife ecology said, "The workshop was an assemblage of many different types of people with different backgrounds, but one thing we all had in common: a basic desire to work for people that brought us all together."

One of the staff, a teacher of handicapped youth, said from his first experience with Rec Lab, "Recreation can be defined as the re-creation of physical and mental abilities. Rec Lab helps develop the coordination, ideas, and total use of oneself."

Perhaps the success of a week-long Rec Lab was best stated by one of the staff of the 1972 Lab. He said, "The ultimate test of the success or failure of this week can best be measured by the differences all of us here make in the lives of other people in our clubs, organizations, and communities."

Because of effective education opportunities such as Rec Lab, Extension agents are helping many Wisconsin citizens to expand their horizons through leisure activities. We believe we've only just begun! □

by
Jean A. Shipman
*Division of Public Information
Oklahoma State University*

Turning houses into homes

"Having a comfortable home atmosphere helps solve the problem of teenagers' wanting to tear up a house down the road or an empty building," said Joe Steichen, chairman of the Ponca Indian Housing Authority since 1966.

Steichen pointed up youth as well as family and community benefits of a year-old housing aides program which ended in September because funds could not be obtained for its continuance.

"Besides improved quality of living for the families, the aides have helped bring economic benefits to our housing authority and to the community," Steichen said.

"One month after the aides began working within the new housing area which encompasses the old Ponca Indian reservation, our maintenance costs started a downhill slide," he said.

Maintenance expenses included roof repairs, broken windows in houses, and service calls on thermostats, heaters, or electrical problems.

Butane bills dropped an average of \$5.07 per family after aides were out in the field, Steichen said. "In our 70 occupied units, that's roughly \$350 a month savings to people who are on the low end of the totem pole on income.

"If you really want to help underprivileged people, help them with things that really count every month. The \$5.07 average savings is something that buys groceries. A reduction in fuel costs really helps them a lot more than coming along and giving them a basket of groceries."

Steichen told Bill Smith, Extension agent in Indian programs, "As far as I'm concerned, we're getting twice as much for the taxpayer's dollar as in any other program I've ever seen."

He estimated that the program would save the housing authority \$60 per unit a year. "When we have the 200 housing units in operation by the end of the year, that would be 60 times \$200 annually," he said.

Smith pointed out other benefits that couldn't be computed, such as prevention of house burnouts from electrical wiring failures, servicing of water pumps that became waterlogged, and work in reupholstering furniture.

As a result of the aide program, Smith said, most homes have carpets. About the only cost has been the time and labor that went into them.

"The families paid for the tape or thread used," Smith said, "and they pieced together carpet ends from an Oklahoma carpet mill. Some carpets matched perfectly and others were combinations of colors that worked beautifully."

About participants in the program, Steichen, who is a non-Indian, said, "Changes in folks we're trying to deal with don't come fast. You don't meet these people in groups. You meet them on a one-to-one basis.

"When the families moved in, I know that 75 percent didn't know how to really keep this type of home clean. Some didn't know how to clean a stove, how to set a thermostat, or how to disinfect and clean a bathroom. These are some things aides taught them," Steichen said.

"When children live in comfortable homes and understand that green grass out in the yard doesn't jump there, they take pride in their surroundings and spend more time at home," Smith said.

Since the housing has come to the area and aides have taught families

how to live in their new homes, more Indian men are holding steady jobs to bring in their monthly house payments.

"We've increased the employment of breadwinners of the Indian community. Now these people are working and paying income taxes for the first time in their lives. They've turned the circle around and are headed back economically. Admittedly, it's a slow curve. But they're making it," Steichen said.

Telling the origin of the program, Steichen said, "Members of our housing authority were concerned about our housing projects going down in repair and maintenance costs rising.

"We visited housing aides programs being carried out by Oklahoma State University in southeastern Oklahoma. Soon afterwards, we got funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs; the U.S. Public Health Service, Division of Indian Health; and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"We contracted with Oklahoma State University Extension to select, train, and supervise housing aides from within the new housing development area."

Mrs. Gayle Muret, Extension home economist in housing, was employed half-time to supervise the aides.

After hiring and training six women and one man as aides, Mrs. Muret conducted a continuous training program 1 day a week for them. Besides learning additional skills, the aides shared problems and experiences.

"Anytime someone asked the aides to describe their jobs, they'd say, 'Teaching people to help themselves, not doing for them,'" Mrs. Muret said.

Preparing families to move from

Discussing guidelines for cooperation in the housing aides program are, left to right, Mrs. Gayle Muret, Extension home economist in housing; Joe Steichen, Ponca Indian Housing Authority chairman; and Bill Smith, Extension agent in Indian programs.

inadequate to new houses as well as solving housing problems and teaching homemaking skills were some ways the aides helped Indian families improve their quality of living.

Emphasizing the teamwork of the housing aide and the nutrition aide programs, Smith said, "The two groups of aides worked as a team from this office."

He said when he came there 6 years ago, 80 percent of the youngsters had "running malnutrition sores the likes of which I've never seen any place since 1936 down in eastern Oklahoma.

"Then we got the school lunch program going. And later the expanded foods and nutrition program started. Now last year and this, I've not seen a malnutrition sore on any Indian child, regardless of age, whether in school or not."

Mrs. Muret said, "Aides from the two programs directed the youth as a team. They reached 80 boys and girls and taught them housing and the basic four food groups this summer.

"The boys at Marland did a fantastic job of making bird houses, pot holders, tie racks and spice shelves. The 4-H junior leaders reinforced the program."

Describing typical housing problems, one aide told of a home festered with mosquitoes. "That place was under water all around. Every time we walked, we could see water seeping out."

After a ditch was dug and water drained, the male housing aide found broken pipes under the house. They were fixed, but water still leaked. Then they found water seeping from a plastic line that had cracked during the winter.

"Now the house is dry," the aide said. "The family has planned landscaping, and their grass is already up."

One mother didn't know how to light the pilot on a hot water heater, so she carried water in and heated it. Since an aide helped her light the pilot, she's been using the water heater and keeping her dishes clean.

Mrs. Muret believes that involving the community in the program has been important. "That way, aides have confidence in the businessmen, and merchants understand work being done in the housing program."

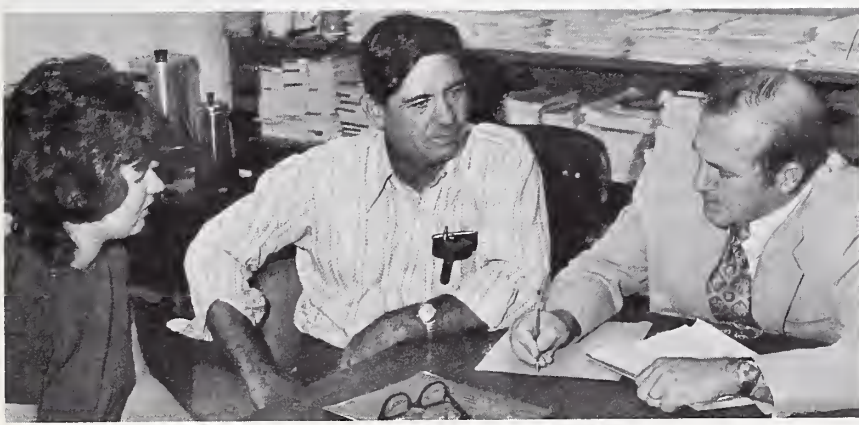
The women made most of the initial contacts. If plumbing work, carpentry, or landscaping were needed, the aides found out when the husband would be home. Then the male aide came at that time to work with the family.

Each of the female aides had assigned families to work with. But they cooperated with others when needed. The male aide worked throughout the area.

Just before the program ended, one aide said, "We're beginning to see the real needs of people as we get to meet and know them. We've hit home repair pretty hard.

"If the roof leaks or wind blows through the house, if it isn't warm in winter or cool in summer, then it still isn't a home. It's just a shack or a house to live in." □

Below, Mrs. Gayle Muret, Extension home economist in housing, and Henry Lieb, Jr., housing aide, go over weekly reports and schedule. At right, Mollie Walkinsky, housing aide, counsels with children of a participating family on the care of home grounds.



✓ Catfish 'boom' creates educational needs

Though small in total volume compared to other meat industries, catfish farming is the fastest growing agricultural industry in Texas.

Today, more than 5,000 acres of water produce catfish valued at about \$6 million annually. This compares to virtually no commercial production of catfish in Texas in 1960.

Catfish farming requires a high degree of technical knowledge and managerial skill. The ideal catfish farmer needs to be a chemist, biologist, salesman, engineer, and economist—with the administrative ability to put it all together.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service provides educational programs of technical information and training necessary to grow the finicky "Mr. Whiskers."

The Extension fisheries program in Texas is led by Wallace Klusmann, a pioneer in the field. In addition, the fresh water fisheries staff includes James Davis, fisheries specialist; Don Steinbach, associate specialist; and Dr.

by
Herbert H. Brevard
Area Information Specialist
and
Dr. Joe Lock
*Area Fisheries Specialist
Agricultural Research
and Extension Center
Overton, Texas*

Ken Johnson, fish disease specialist, all headquartered at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Joe Lock, area fisheries specialist, is located in East Texas at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton.

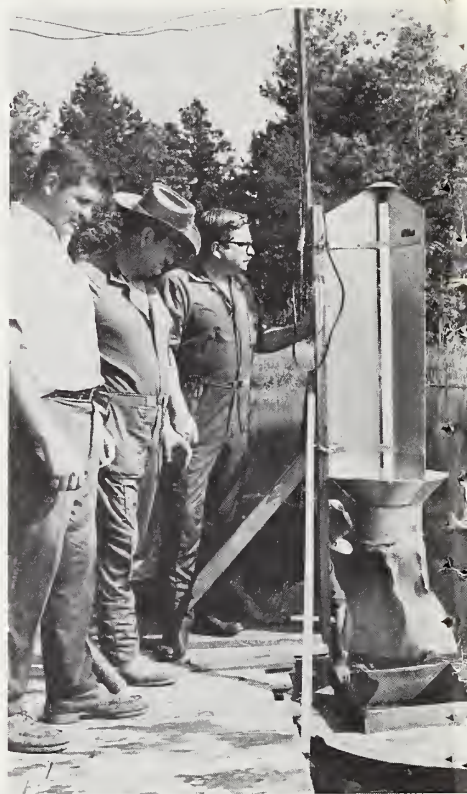
When the fish disease specialist position was established in 1971, a fish parasite and disease diagnostic service was started. The service is now fully operational and provides free diagnosis to Texas fish farmers.

Extension educational programs in Texas are carried out primarily through local county program building committees and area income growth organizations.

Each county has an organized county program building committee made up of a broadly representative group of county leaders, county Extension agents, relevant Extension specialists, and other resource persons.

More than 18,000 volunteer leaders serve on these committees. They study and analyze their county situation, identify problems and opportunities for improving economic and social conditions, establish priorities, set long-range objectives, and develop and carry out action programs.

The State has six area income growth programs, involving 155 of the 254 counties. These programs help to develop leadership and resources in an area with common physical, economic, and environmental characteristics.



The area program joins the capabilities of individuals with those of agencies and organizations in agriculture, business, and industry to enhance the area's economic growth.

The Extension fisheries program works with and through these educational organizations. County program building committees, with counseling from agents and specialists, plan educational activities designed to meet the needs of their local situation.

At left, Don Manning, chairman of the Build East Texas Catfish Task Force, puts fingerlings into a hauling tank for transport to farm pond. Below, left to right, Dr. Ken Lewis, area entomologist, producer K. D. Atwood, and Dr. Joe Lock, area fisheries specialist, inspect an insect trap over a catfish cage.

These activities may take the form of result demonstrations, workshops, clinics, tours and field days, or individual consultations.

In some counties, catfish farming is not yet large enough to be given full attention by the committee, so emphasis has been on area programs. The Build East Texas (BET) program has been particularly successful in carrying out educational activities.

The BET area income growth program is organized into commodity task forces. The catfish production task force is led by Don Manning of Longview, Texas, with Dr. Lock serving as advisor.

During the 1971 fiscal year, this task force, in cooperation with the Extension Service, sponsored a fish disease short course, a field day, tour, and panel discussion covering all phases of catfish production. Many result demonstrations were conducted on the economic feasibility of various methods of production.

Result demonstrations remain a highly effective teaching method in Texas. Extension personnel carry out these demonstrations and applied catfish production research in cooperation with catfish farmers.

The owner of one of the largest fish farms in the State, for example, donated 21 experimental ponds for use in applied research during 1972.

Extension uses the multi-discipline approach to problem solving. In one segment of this project, growth and feed conversion of three varieties of catfish are being compared.

Dr. Jack Price, Extension agricultural chemicals leader, is studying

varying the feed protein content in relation to the age and size of catfish. Other studies are being conducted in feeding game fish alone and with channel catfish.

Lock and Dr. John Fowler, area poultry specialist, are conducting a study using dried poultry wastes (DPW) as a food substitute for animal protein. This practice could greatly reduce the high cost of catfish feed.

Because of the common name of DPW, the two specialists have incurred considerable ribbing from their fellow workers. But if preliminary results hold true, Fowler and Lock may have the last laugh when the production cost of their fish is compared with that of the controls.

Farm pond management for recreational fishing is frequently included in educational programs on catfish production. Advanced management practices in both areas often coincide.

East Texas, with suitable climate and adequate water, is currently the focal point of catfish production in Texas. Many result demonstrations have been conducted on feeding channel catfish in stock ponds. So far, all have been successful.

Interest is high in raising catfish in cages. This method requires extra care in handling and feeding because of the high incidence of disease. Cage production averages 300 to 500 pounds of fish per cubic meter cage in about 6 months.

One demonstration, using aerial insects as supplemental feed, is in progress at a farm in Rusk County. Insects are funneled into a cage each night through an insect light trap. Fish in this cage are fed a lesser amount of a lower-protein, lower-cost feed.

Growth is being compared with two cages of catfish fed a higher cost, nutritionally complete feed. Dr. Ken Lewis, area entomologist, is participating with Lock on this project.

Catfish fingerling production (hatching and raising fish for stocking) is presently the most profitable part of the catfish business. A demonstration

at a farm near Henderson produced more than 6,000 pounds of fingerlings per surface acre of water in 1971. Advanced management techniques were employed throughout the demonstration.

The catfish industry is not without problems. Contrary to popular belief, the high quality catfish produced on farms do not tolerate poor water quality. They also require a high quality, high protein feed to grow at maximum efficiency. Applied research being conducted by Extension specialists may help alleviate this expensive production cost.

Another serious problem is the removal of undesirable fish before stocking with catfish or other game fish. Insecticides have traditionally been used for this purpose, with varied results.

Increasing criticism of this practice has led Texas Extension specialists to search for an effective fish toxicant that will not leave a persistent residue.

Klussmann and Steinbach, in cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, have done research using anhydrous ammonia as a toxicant. A naturally occurring compound, it seems to meet the non-persistent residue requirement.

The research has shown that ammonia is more effective as a fish toxicant than the traditionally-used insecticides. An added bonus is derived from ammonia, since it also eradicates undesirable weeds and promotes the growth of beneficial phytoplankton.

Ammonia is not presently cleared for use in ponds, but is being evaluated in field testing situations.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service views the problems of the rapidly developing catfish industry as an opportunity and challenge—an opportunity to help people solve their problems by putting research-proven practices into use, and a challenge to the skills and expertise of Extension personnel to implement educational programs to meet the needs of society. □

by
Russel J. McCormick
*Area Extension Agent
Warrick County, Indiana*



Opportunity begins at home

Where would you start if you wanted to encourage your community's young people not to move away after high school or college?

Spencer County, Indiana, decided to start with the kids themselves—by finding out what kinds of opportunities they wanted, and then planning a special program to show them how many of these opportunities already existed in the county.

At a meeting of the county Community Development Committee last year, members expressed concern that not enough young people were staying in the county. Someone suggested that they find out why by inviting a dozen high school juniors and seniors for an evening discussion.

A report of that meeting says: "Members of the committee were greatly impressed by these articulate and intelligent youngsters, who were well groomed and well mannered. They felt a pride in the reflections these students cast, knowing they were



indicative of friends, families, and schools."

More than that, the young folks were honest with their elders, and told it like it was. They said there were not enough opportunities to keep them in Spencer County, not enough of the kind of jobs they wanted, and not enough variety in the school courses to give them the kind of education they needed.

One aspiring young farmer said, "Here it seems the farms are inherited, and will not support two families. If you're lucky enough to find acreage where you would like to buy, you incur a debt you live with all your lifetime, and the kids inherit the debt with the land."

They wanted to see more recreation opportunity of all kinds. And they thought a 2-year advanced school

Representatives of Spencer County's construction industry, above left, tell interested students about the local job opportunities in their field. Below left, another group learns about the possibilities for a teaching career.

course beyond high school, combining academic with vocational training, was needed.

Concerning the church, they were 100 percent in favor of change. "We go to the same churches as our parents and grandparents, and the ideas are the same now as then," they said.

Some of them liked the friendliness and clean atmosphere of the small communities. "People should invest in their county instead of just paying taxes," they commented, adding that "they could do better with what is already here."

The young people's comments were published in the local newspaper, and the next meeting of the Development Committee was a brisk one.

It was William Koch, manager of Santa Claus Land, who strongly urged some kind of career day that would show the young people what kind of opportunities were available in Spencer County, particularly in small industry and services.

A subcommittee was named to proceed with the career day, and James Buckles was asked to serve as chairman.

The committee again went directly to the youth for ideas. They sent out 350 career interest survey cards to high school freshmen. The answered cards gave a basis for the kind of career information that went into the Youth Opportunity Day.

The freshmen were given 99 choices, and Opportunity Day booths were set up for those fields receiving enough votes. In each booth, resource people talked to the young folks about

jobs that were available in their own community.

Among subjects chosen by the ninth graders were auto mechanics with 45 requests, child care with 33, hairstyling with 31, nursing with 30, sports with 27, construction 24, and agriculture and woodworking in a tie at 21. Morticians, clergymen, and printers received no votes.

One of the first decisions the committee made was to man the booths with qualified people. They were workers from the selected career fields, people who had the kinds of jobs a high school graduate might step into in Spencer County. They weren't public relations or business executives with four-colored folders, but workers who could answer questions about training, salary, working hours, and future opportunity.

The staffs and principals of three high schools were essential to getting the young people to the Youth and Community Center, and six teachers from the schools acted as chaperones.

Service clubs from six communities in the county helped with the cost of the program. Extension Service personnel who worked as resource people for the Community Development Committee included Bill Beach, Hiram Wallace, Chester Belcher, and Russel McCormick, all area Extension agents.

The key people when the day came were 20 resource people from business, industry, government, and schools. "We were fortunate to obtain many well qualified resource people for the day's program," said Ra'ph Kennedy, chairman of the Spencer County Community Development

Study Committee that sponsored the day.

"The cooperation of the resource people was outstanding," was the way James Buckles, chairman of the subcommittee, gave credit to the 20 who worked in the booths. School principal Ray Lindsay expressed his thanks by saying that "the resource people were well qualified, and our students said they appreciated the program."

Of the 320 young people who came to listen and ask questions of the workers, more than half asked to have the program continued another year for the next group of freshmen.

Most of them thought the 25-minute sessions at the booths were about right. They also felt that field trips to visit the job locations would have been helpful.

More than half of the participants said afterward that they would like to work and live in Spencer County, and that they were now more aware of opportunities in the county.

To develop this sort of attitude was the objective of the Community Development Committee when they started planning for the day many months before.

Why was the Youth Opportunity Day so successful? A key reason, certainly, is that the Development Committee got help from young people and working people.

The enthusiasm for the project is such that we believe it will go on from year to year, or as long as the young people will come. Its real evaluation will have to come in the future, from those who stay in the county, as well as from those who leave. □



National Farm-City Week

As this is written, committees across the country are putting the finishing touches on local events in support of the National Farm-City Week observance scheduled for November 17-23. The National Farm-City Council, Incorporated, sponsor of the event, dedicates the observance to "better rural-urban understanding." Specific focus of the 1972 event is "Quality of Life—Our Mutual Responsibility."

The first National Farm-City Week was observed in 1955, although many localities had sponsored such events for years. Recalling the events conducted then and in the years immediately following, observances in recent years appear to more nearly serve the intended purpose.

The early observances placed major emphasis on helping urban dwellers better understand and appreciate the complications involved in producing the Nation's food and fiber. Often little if any emphasis was given to the trials and tribulations of the local businessmen serving the farmer or to the role they may have been playing in moving the farm produce to the ultimate consumer.

Yet, true understanding can come only in an atmosphere of effective two-way communication. There are two sides to every issue. One isn't likely to get an audience for his side unless he is willing to give the other side a chance to tell his story. Secretary Butz, in a recent address at the Annual Farm Barbecue in Burlington, Iowa, summed up this interrelationship this way:

"... it is most fitting here, on the eve of harvest, for the Burlington Chamber of Commerce to pay this tribute to farmers. The agricultural abundance which we enjoy in America is the product of what agriculture and business together make possible. The business community in Burlington—in all of Iowa—knows that. And farmers

know it.

"Where would the Iowa farmer be without the host of businesses which serve farmers—both on the input side and output side? We couldn't begin to feed this Nation—and others around the world. And what reason would there be for many of the key businesses and for much of Iowa's manufacturing without farmers? Iowa would again become an open prairie.

"It is this interrelationship between farming and business—and its solid benefit for all—which brings you here for this barbecue."

Reviewing some of the observances scheduled across the country this year, we see that we are moving toward two-way communication.

The Montana Cowbells is very active in working to improve rural-urban understanding. One local chapter participated in a tour arranged by a local bank. Another chapter helped sponsor a two-part event. One part included a tour of several ranches and farms for city residents. The other part featured a tour of local businesses for rural people.

A regional Farm-City Week Conference in Hartford, Connecticut, earlier this year featured speakers representing both rural and urban residents. They addressed themselves to this year's theme, "Quality of Life—Our Mutual Responsibility."

These are just three of hundreds of examples across the country where observances specifically include two-way communication as the founders envisioned. Perhaps this trend toward telling both the rural and urban stories is itself evidence that the Farm-City Week is producing the desired understanding and the desire for understanding and that we are getting it all together.—WJW